REGISTERED NO. M 4345

MADRAS WAR REVIEW

A WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE WORLD WAR

VOL. V FRIDAY, MARCH 17, 1944 No. 28

General MONTGOMERY

HAS BEGUN ALREADY

The second front has begun already and next year we shall just topple it over

You can pick your own date and put your money on it. I have not the slightest doubt that if the battle front and the home front really get down to it this year, we can get the thing almost finished—held so tightly that next year we shall just topple it over. At the end of this year, if not sooner, we shall have it just about right for toppling over

General MONTGOMERY in a speech at a workers' meeting on March 11

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[Note.—*The summary of news and comments contained in the* Madras War Review *generally relate to events and statements published till Wednesday, every week.*]

ON THE THRESHOLD OF OFFENSIVES

"The Allies are on the threshold of critical offensives that will dwarf all previous thrusts. Team work enabled the United Nations forces to carry forward to success the greatest amphibian operations ever conducted in any war and I can promise without revealing any military secrets that these combined operations will seem small when the offensives now being planned take place."

Colonel FRANK KNOX, *United States Navy Secretary, in Washington, on Thursday, March* 9.

◆

BITTER FIGHTING LIES AHEAD

"The Allies have only dented the rim of Hitler's Fortress and touched the outskirts of Tojo's Empire. So far we have done well but not well enough to relax for a single moment. The decision is ours whether the war will be short or long. Let us not be deluded by the happy thought that the war is won. Bitter fighting lies ahead."

Lieutenant-General SOMERVELL, *Commanding-General of the United States Army Service Forces, in Belvoir, on Friday, March* 10.

◆

MUCH REMAINS TO BE DONE

"Our air arms are softening up the Germans, but much remains to be done. We can and will win this war, but every one of us can and must do his full duty. It is small unit leadership that is going to win ground battles which must be won before Germany is finally crushed."

General EISENHOWER, *Supreme Commander-in-Chief of the Allied Invasion Forces, in Sandhurst, on Saturday, March* 11.

◆

WE SHALL BE VICTORIOUS

"We have a common enemy and therefore a common aim. We know that the destruction of the German oppressors cannot be achieved without a fight on our domestic soil. We know it will be a severe fight, but we shall be victorious."

Dr. BENES, *President of Czechoslovakia, in London, on Saturday, March* 11.

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DISCRETION, NOT THE BETTER PART OF (DE) VALERA

IRELAND has always been a problem.

TO Great Britain she has caused many worries down the centuries. In the twelfth century there was trouble between the English and the Irish. In the seventeenth century, it again revived—this time it was between the English and the Scots on the one side and the Irish on the other. Later, Cromwell and William III tried their best to get Ireland under a common Government. In the nineteenth century, Gladstone brought the Home Rule Bill. It was before Parliament when the war broke out in 1914. Inevitably the passage of the Bill was postponed till after the war. But impatient and impetuous Irishmen would not wait. They staged a revolt and proclaimed Ireland a Republic on Easter Monday, 1916. It was a mad attempt led by Patrick Pearse, a schoolmaster. The other leaders were MacDonough, MacDermott and de Valera, and they all defended themselves in Dublin Post Office for nearly a week. The rebellion was a failure. The leaders of the rebels were captured, tried by a military tribunal, and sentenced to be shot. Fifteen leaders were executed, but one escaped. The historian says, "They almost executed a lean crow of a man who gave his name as Eamonn de Valera, but reprieved him because he had been born in America and it would not have done, in 1916, to have complications with Washington."

Problem to the United Nations

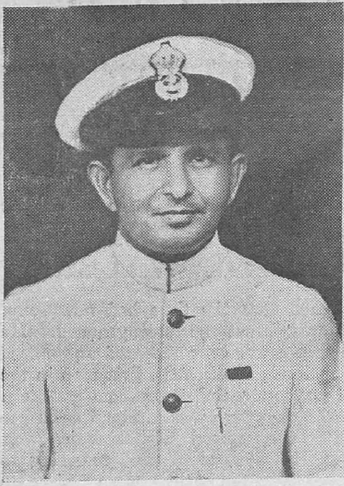
NOW Ireland under de Valera has been causing worry and anxiety to the United Nations, and it is Washington that has taken the initiative to warn her. In a statement in the House of Commons on Tuesday (March 14), on the American Note to the Irish Government, Mr. Churchill explained that the initiative was taken by the United States because of the danger to American armed forces from the presence of Axis Missions in Dublin. He announced that the British Government were consulted throughout by the United States Government and gave them their full support. For some time past, the British Government had been taking a number of measures to minimize the dangers arising from the substantial disservice to the cause of the United Nations involved in the retention of the German Minister and the Japanese Consul with their staffs in Dublin. Mr. Churchill declared that the time had now come when such measures must be strengthened. He added that restrictions on travel to Ireland announced in the Press the previous day were the first step in the policy designed to isolate Great Britain from Southern Ireland and also to isolate Southern Ireland from the outer world during the critical period which was now approaching. He was, of course, referring to the great offensive that the Allies were going to launch against German-occupied Europe from the West.

Espionage Activities

THE fact that the German Legation in Dublin was having a radio sending set and that two parachutists equipped with such sets were dropped on Irish soil by a German aircraft some time ago shows that something sinister is being done by German and Japanese agents in Dublin. Whether action has been taken against them or not, or when such action was taken, by the Irish Government is not important. For the Allies have more important work to do than watch whether Dublin is seriously taking action on enemy espionage activities, and they cannot afford to give the benefit of the doubt to Mr. de Valera's Government at a critical time when so much is at stake. That is why they asked for the closure of the Axis Legations promptly.

MR. DE VALERA'S refusal has left them no option but to take the usual precautionary measures, and what is worse for Ireland, supplies of wheat, oil, petrol and machinery carried in British ships from Canada and the United States of America may have to be stopped. This may be done not as a retaliatory measure against an unfriendly neutral, but as a measure to safeguard shipping space and the lives of sailors, which may be endangered in taking supplies to Ireland, and which may be much better utilized in the forthcoming operations.

MR. DE VALERA may not care for all this. He has never believed in the dictum that discretion is the better part of valour in the past, and he is not going to do it now. He has not paid the penalty for such lack of faith so far, but not so the country in which he was not born, but over which he holds sway.



Fali Sorabji M.B. (I) was awarded the I.D.S.M. for meritorious service with coastal forces of the Royal Indian Navy in the Arakan operations of the spring of 1943, when he kept his ship's engines running efficiently in trying circumstances during an engagement with the enemy.

Able-seaman Babu Lal was awarded the I.D.S.M. for gallantry while serving with Coastal Forces of the Royal Indian Navy in the Arakan operations of the spring of 1943. He was Quartermaster of a ship and showed great coolness and precision in carrying out orders while his ship was under intense enemy fire.

RUNNING COMMENTARY

India's Fifth War Budget—Rs. 940 crores to be debited to His Majesty's Government

In his reply to budget criticisms in the Central Assembly on March 7, the Honourable Sir JEREMY RAISMAN, Finance Member to the Government of India, has explained a number of points relating to the defence expenditure. He has pointed out the reasons for the increase in the expenditure of airfields as compared with the previous years. It is only to be expected that expenditure on airfields in the year when the enemy was at our gates and sitting on our frontiers should be very much greater than it was before the Japanese even entered the war. He laid emphasis on the fact that fighting forces and their equipment chargeable to the Indian Exchequer do not exceed the requirements of India's own local defence purposes, for instance, the setting up of the South-East Asia Command does not affect India's liability for war expenditure.

Another point in the Finance Member's budget speech relates to financial settlement arrived at between Britain and India on the question of allocation of war expenditure. Out of the total expenditure incurred by India on defence and supply services during the five years up to 1943–44 the amount that would be charged finally to the Indian revenues would be about Rs. 800 crores and the balance of about Rs. 940 crores would be debited to His Majesty's Government in Great Britain. The figure of Rs. 940 crores includes Britain's share in implementing the recommendations of the Chatfield Committee. The Finance Member in his winding up speech on March 7 made the position of India's defence very clear. He said:

> "I have no hesitation in saying that the money debited to India is money incurred for the defence of India. Not only that but the charges with which India is debited are not the full cost of the defence of India, not even of the local defence of India. The position is that India bears no part of the cost of operations beyond her frontiers. She also does not bear the full cost of the defence of India herself."

Defence Expenditure of Rs. 262·64 Crores

A few figures from India's Fifth War Budget may be of interest to our readers. The total amount of defence expenditure is Rs. 262·64 crores. This is an impressive figure even if we deduct the item of Rs. 13·01 crores which represents the effect of a rise in prices. The additional item of Rs. 13·030 represents a capital portion of the defence expenditure whose benefits to India would be permanent. The following are the details of this capital defence expenditure :—

	CRORES. RS.
Airfields	14·67
Industrial expansion ..	6·00
Airfields (under the reciprocal aid).	10·85
New construction for the Royal Indian Navy.	2·58
Capital outlay on Telecommunications Scheme.	4·20

There has been an increase of Rs. 8·29 crores under civil expenditure for 1943–44, the total of which is estimated at Rs. 76·78 crores. What are the reasons for the increase of over 8 crores. The details of this expenditure are broadly as follows :—

	CRORES. RS.
Grants to evacuees and families of British subjects detained in enemy territory.	2
Grants to provinces and states in furtherance of the "Grow More Food Campaign."	2
Central Government's assistance to Bengal for famine relief.	3

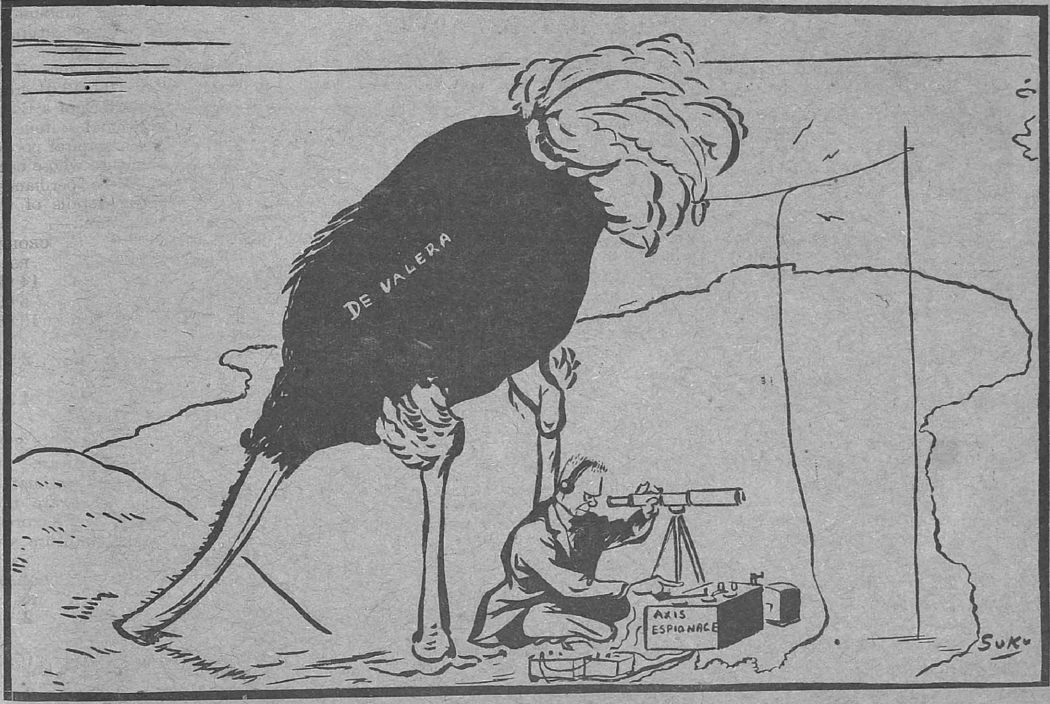
One of the items in the budget that has been widely welcomed is the grant of Rs. 10 lakhs for industrial research. After the conclusion of the war the Government of India will be giving a grant of Rs. 1 crore spread over three or four years for implementing a scheme of co-ordinated research. The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research is drawing up plans in connexion with this scheme.

* * * *

H.P.P. and Savings Campaigns

During the past year the problem of monetary inflation induced by price inflation has caused great anxiety both to the Government and the people. The question of absorbing enormous surplus purchasing power was soundly tackled by a number of anti-inflationary measures, such as introduction of the principle of Statutory Price Control and enactment of

THE IRISH OSTRICH



—*Specially drawn for the* MADRAS WAR REVIEW

Anti-Hoarding and Anti-Profiteering Ordinance measures which have been widely welcomed by public opinion in India. In addition to these negative measures Government have put into effect the positive policy of making more consumers goods and gold available for purchase by the public.

The "Save and Lend Campaign" of the Government has produced considerable effect in absorbing the purchasing power. In one year (from January 31, 1943 to February 1, 1944) Rs. 115 crores were subscribed by the public to the defence loans. This is about three times as much as the collections in the previous year. Now the Small Savings Campaign has been launched with a wider organization. It may be pointed out in this connexion that the Small Savings Campaign in Britain has yielded a considerable sum to the British Exchequer and has acted as a deterrant against inflation.

New taxation proposals outlined by the Finance Member in his speech are new excise duties on tea, coffee and betel nuts at the rate of two annas per pound, an increase in the tobacco excise duty for the purpose of getting an additional revenue of Rs. 10 crores, a raising of the surcharge on the customs duties on spirits and tobacco from 20 per cent to 50 per cent, increased surcharges on taxes on annual incomes above Rs. 15,000, increase by half an anna in the supertax on incomes between Rs. 35,000 and Rs. 2 lakhs, and a raising of the Corporation tax from one anna to three annas. The brightest feature of the new income-tax proposals lies in the raising of the minimum of taxable income from 1,500 to 2,000.

* * *

Bold Proposals— "Pay As You Earn" Scheme

India's Fifth War Budget has been described to be a bold one and it does in fact contain bold proposals. For instance, the "Pay As You Earn" Scheme which contemplates a measure of compulsory deposits provides for an income-tax payer to pay in advance quarterly income-tax which is to carry a interest of 2 per cent. Another innovation which has to be implemented by the provinces is the suggestion of an estate duty on non-agricultural property. The object of such a tax is not only to mitigate acute poverty itself but also to aid post-war reconstruction.

In his speech the Finance Member placed the highest emphasis on the sound financial position of the Central and Provincial Governments and said that it depended on the fullest development of the respective taxation resources. He calculated that in the first quinquennium after the war both borrowing and taxation would bring at least Rs. 1,000 crores to be used for the purpose of carrying out concrete and practicable plans of post-war reconstruction. The Dollar Fund which will be steadily built up to facilitate post-war trade between U.S.A.

(*Continued on page* 8)

WORK HARDER

By CAPT. G. T. B. HARVEY

THIS is a true story from a private letter from England. A man engaged in a munition factory was due toarrive at his work at 6-30 a.m. every morning. One day he arrived at 6-40, and was ticked off by the foreman.

"Why are you late?" asked the foreman.

"I'm sorry," said the man, "but the fact is that I had to hand my baby over to his grandmother."

"Grandmother, my eye?" said the foreman. "Haven't you got a wife?"

"Yes," said the man, "but she has to get to work at Austin's at 6 a.m., so we get her mother to take charge."

"Well," said the foreman "if your wife goes to work at 6, and you know you have to get here by 6-30, why can't you arrange to hand the baby over to granny a bit earlier?"

"Because my mother-in-law doesn't get off night-shift until 6-30!" was the reply.

I begin this talk with that story because it does seem to me to illustrate a case of 100 per cent war-effort, and what is true of that ordinary family is true of millions of people in Britain and Europe to-day. In spite of the fact that the worst onslaught of the enemy has been survived—in spite of the fact that victory for the Allies and the defeat of Nazism is now as certain as anything can possibly be—that family—those millions—are as hard at work as they were four years ago, with every physical and mental effort enlisted, and with a great proportion of the amenities and pleasures and comforts of life discarded "for the duration."

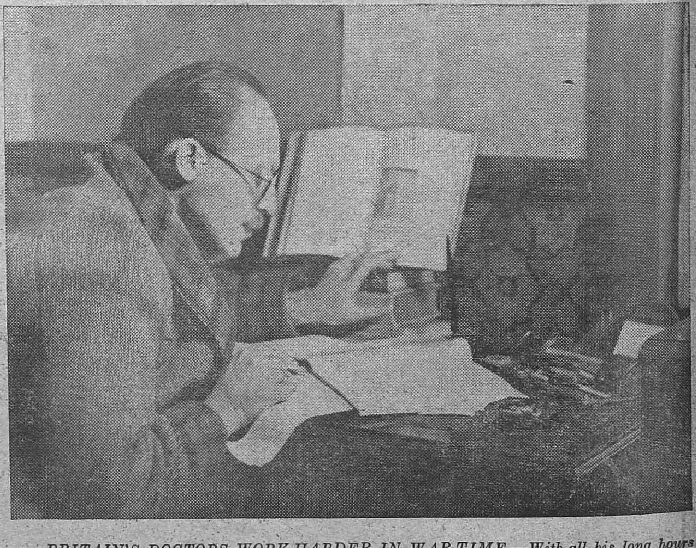
Out here, we hear the wireless, and read the papers, and see the pictures—and applaud the determination and gallantry and self-sacrifice of our friends and relatives and allies, but how many of us individually and inwardly realize that we too are at war and that—I express a private opinion only—a war which for India is just beginning.

HARSH AND GRIM WAR

Of course there are some people who are extremely hard at work, there are many who have contributed handsomely to funds or pay extra income-tax without grumbling or take on extra and honorary jobs; and again millions upon whom the incidental unpleasantnesses of a global war have fallen—shortage of food, fuel, and consumer-goods; hampered and uncomfortable transport; and anxieties about sons and brothers who *are* doing 100 per cent war-work in that they have taken the plucky plunge and are serving in the field. But, by-and-large, are the people—all the people in this country—intimately aware that there faces us a war almost as harsh and grim as that in Europe, a war that must go on for years, perhaps, and—unless every jack man of us feels and acts like that English workman's family I have told you of—, for more years than that? Nor is that the end of it, for not only has the war against Japan to be finished to our satisfaction and their perdition, but its direct reactions upon the political and economic conditions in this country and the impact of the peace itself have to be comprehended, studied and worked at, unless chaos and misery are to result where there should be security and happy progress.

I am no Cassandra of the legends, nor do I enjoy croaking like a debilitated raven, but I do feel there is *need* sometimes to remind ourselves that nothing less than cent per cent effort from each of us will do, and here are some of my reasons for saying so.

The first is that whatever war-adventure we have already experienced, be it discomfort or strain, hunger or poverty, bereavement or deprivation, there are surely bigger ones in the offing against which we have to brace ourselves. If the war in Europe draws towards a close in a climax of bloodshed and destruction, we have only just begun to come to grips with the Eastern Foe. He made his treacherous spring just about two years ago, and the impetus of that spring was as unpleasant for us as it was encouraging to him. Burma, Siam, Indo-China and the big islands to the south of them are at his mercy still; he successfully stole a large number of marine and aerial vantage-grounds from the Americans and ourselves, which—though he



BRITAIN'S DOCTORS WORK HARDER IN WAR-TIME.—With all his long hours of practical work Dr. John has to combine never-ending studies of the theory of medicine as it develops. To be a good doctor he must keep abreast of all the latest medical discoveries. Dr. John finds his best time for study is in the early hours of the morning. He is least likely then to be disturbed by the telephone. Sitting quietly and alone in his surgery, clad in a comfy old smoking jacket, he works through the dawn.

is losing them one by one—must long form a series of dangerous pirates' nests; he has enormous armies a great part of an enormous navy, and a highly disciplined and war-minded home-front. He is, in short, a bad enemy, so bad a component of that body of nations forming what we know as the civilized world, that there is no chance of peaceful security in any land in the Eastern Hemisphere at least until he is thrashed into submission to the laws of humanity. Now it has taken $4\frac{1}{2}$ years of bitterly concentrated effort to teach Germany, Italy, Bulgaria and Rumania a mere part of the lesson they have got to learn—and they are all, geographically, comparatively concentrated. So, personally, I don't see why it should take much less time to overcome the Japanese, with the enormous distances separating them from, and protecting them against, the avenging Allies. Certainly many and vast bases have to be prepared against them far nearer than America and Britain; and—and this is my main point—one of these, and perhaps the principal one, is to be this India. We have strong evidence of it; the South-East Asia Command is already at work. India is to be one of the principal take-off-places for a mighty and strenuous triphibious operation against one of the worst and most powerful enemies civilization has ever had to stand up to. Think what this means to us non-combatants. Millions of men and their road transport moving into, through and out of depots; thousands of trainloads of troops and supplies and ammunition constantly on the move; thousands of planes, great and small, taking off from, and homing back to, hundreds of air fields; thousands of sea-craft entering and leaving the country's harbours; hundreds of supply depots and training centres and munition factories all over the country—all together constituting a military spring-board from which the Allies are to leap at the enemy's throat. This is a picture of power, a comforting-enough picture, but confidence and complacency are two very different things, and this is a lesson that at least a part of the country has still to learn.

MAIN OBJECTIVE OF N.W.F.

I am no alarmist. I am convinced that ultimately we have the measure of the Japanese, on sea, land and in the air. But to the complacent I would address this question. Supposing you were a member of the Japanese High Command anxiously conscious for powerful concentric pressure against your island-country, increasing southwards through the Aleutians and Kiska, northwards through the Solomons and the Marshalls and Truk, and eastwards from the Coromandel and Carnatic coasts, what would you do? Would you sit and wait for unhampered hosts to hurl themselves at your inner defences or would you sally out and put their programme out of gear by doing as much damage as you could to their base concentrations? If you think this out, is it so certain that war, physical actual war, will not come to these shores,—to this very city perhaps? Whether or not such enemy attacks can be held away from us by diverting land action, or by the navy or the air force, is neither here nor there; the point is that Eastern India must be a tempting target for a desperate foe, and with such large masses of uninformed and unstable people to look after and prevent from panicking and interrupting war-work, every intelligent person has his work fully cut out. The National War Front's main objective is just that—to interest, inform and inspire the uninformed, the apathetic, the complacent and the defeatist. But there are dozens of other ways in which the morale of the country can be strengthened by the average man and women,—by individual self-denial and austerity, by practising and preaching the saving habit instead of the spending habit—to assist the vital cause of anti-inflation; by active regular work on behalf of troops (for example Red Cross and Amenities work in all its forms, working-parties, first-aid, nursing, etc.), or on behalf of troops' families (for instance, Forces Welfare work, service with Soldiers' Boards); or again by supplementing the work of the National War Front by personal contact with the puzzled, worried masses explaining the foundations for the Allies' confidence, as also the inevitability of hardship, the necessity for

S. S. S.

H. E. THE GOVERNOR'S APPEAL

GOVERNOR OF MADRAS

GOVERNMENT HOUSE
Guindy,
10th March 1944.

I have much pleasure in commending to the people of the Madras Presidency the small savings scheme which has been devised by the Government of India and is now being launched in this and other provinces.

From the national point of view this scheme is of the greatest value and importance. It is not primarily a war measure, but is designed for the uplift of this great country, not merely in war time but for many years to come. India now has an unique opportunity of saving and acquiring wealth, so as to give her voice the influence which it deserves at the council table of the world's great nations.

From the view point of the individual it would be difficult to find a better security, or a larger guaranteed return for his investment.

I appeal with confidence to the people of this Province to participate to the full in this small savings scheme for by so doing they will help immeasurably their country and themselves.

Arthur Hope

GOVERNOR OF MADRAS.

unrelaxed effort and cheerful compliance with every requirement and restriction which Government has to impose, and confidence in our war-leadership.

These things may all seem vague. But the fact is that the money you save or the speeches you make or the number of socks you can knit are not in themselves the prime factor. It is rather the enormous influence of personal example. The more men or women who doggedly and regularly give all the spare time available, without pay, possibly at their own cost, and without any thought of reward, to war-work of whatever kind, so much the greater the national realization of the emergency. That is what is wanted—a national realization—and the force of personal example is the greatest of all the factors likely to produce a steadfast and victorious morale.

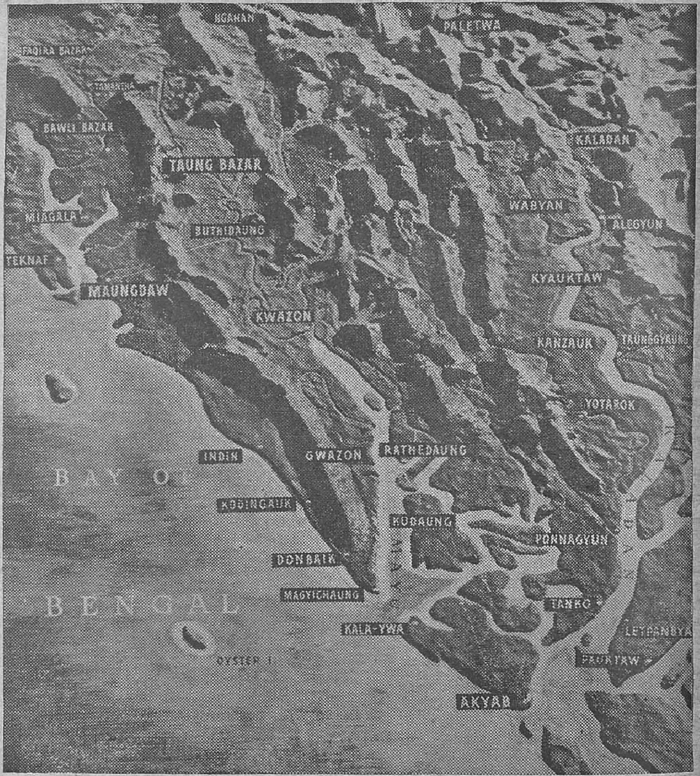
DUTY OF THE OPPOSITION

The title of this talk is "Work Harder," but may I warn listeners of a few activities, to which this exhortation definitely does *not* apply? This country, I submit, is apt to over-indulge the theory that the duty of the opposition is to oppose. I don't believe that, in war, this is necessarily so. Constructive political criticism is always welcome but *mere* irresponsible criticism, often couched in a personal vein, against a Government or a party or a person merely because their peacetime theories vary from yours, is a prejudicial and dangerous course to pursue at a time like this.

All I ask, in the interest of a cause which *must* be made victorious if we citizens of India are to survive let alone to flourish, is that whether the atmosphere we live in is that of high politics or party-counsels or religious conferences, or even committees of the various war-efforts themselves, opinions should be subjective and sober and consciously subordinated to the exigencies of the times.

—A talk broadcast from A.I.R., Madras, on Tuesday, March 14.

THE BURMA FRONT



RUNNING COMMENTARY

(*Continued from page 5*)

and India is another point in the budget speech which deserves to be noted. On the whole there is a general sigh of relief that the burden imposed by the war is not greater. It is gratifying to note that the budget recognizes the important economic principle that a country cannot spend on war and war alone. In India a position has now been reached in which "a substantial increase in the demands on India's resources of skilled man power or materials, even though the cost were not borne by Indian revenues, would impose a severe additional burden on her economy." This has been well accepted in the budget and India's war-time finance rests on the principle that her economic stability, on which not only the well being of her people but also her utility as a base of operations depends, is maintained.

PATROL ACTIVITY

Behind the words, "patrol activity continues," which occur frequently in war communiqués, lie innumerable stories of fortitude and courage of small parties of British and Indian troops who probe into enemy positions day and night.

Often they inflict damage to enemy posts but all patrols are not intended to go into action. Less dramatic though no less dangerous is the task of reconnaissance when their job is to obtain information as to the whereabouts and strength of enemy positions.

A patrol has just returned. The Lance-Naik leading the patrol managed to crawl up a bare slope to the blind side of an enemy bunker without rousing the suspicions of the treesnipers behind. He flung a grenade through the slit in the bunker, and scrambled downhill again as the Japanese at the rear opened fire.

His ankle was twisted in the descent but he immediately organized a covering fire to facilitate the withdrawal of the patrol, which later dealt in similar fashion with another enemy bunker.

To establish contact with the enemy these men have often to cross mountains and ravines, along tiny footpaths and through miles of thickly weaded jungles. When they return it is not always without scratches. Most of the time these men are entirely cut off from civilisation, living in holes dug in the ground or in isolated grass-roofed shanties.

NEW BRITISH TECHNICAL INVENTIONS

By ERIC N. SIMONS

THE production of special stainless steels and alloys to meet the needs of the chemical and dairy industries of the world is of relatively recent date. Obviously, acids and other liquids injurious to steel containers compel the employment of materials with resistance to these acids and also to the effects of heat and corrosion. In the supply of dairy produce there has been a continual demand for hygiene, and special materials have had to be used for storage tanks and other vessels containing milk.

Before modern stainless alloys were introduced, the only metals that could be used were tin, copper, nickel and lead, while the only non-metallic materials were stone and glass. Mild steel vessels were lined with glass, rubber, tin and even paint. Valuable metals used in laboratories, e.g., silver and platinum, were too expensive for industrial employment.

When specially constructed plant of stainless metals was developed, entirely owing to the discoveries of those two metallurgists Mr. Harry Brearley and Sir Robert Hadfield, an increased need for electric arc welding for all kinds of plant was experienced. Chemical manufacturers in particular, wanted first-class plant, and it was wholly the result of stainless alloys that many chemical reactions were made simple and safe.

In the welding of alloys of all types, numerous difficulties have had to be overcome by experts. Only twenty years or so ago the welding of alloy steels was regarded in many quarters as impracticable, and mild steel was the only steel that was welded at all extensively. Any metal containing more than an extremely small carbon content was not welded other than experimentally.

ELECTRIC ARC PROCESS

The arrival of the electric arc process changed the entire position. The intense heat produced simplified the task, but at the same time raised new problems, since this heat built up fresh compounds that had awkward effects. These difficulties have all been steadily overcome, and to-day it is possible to weld satisfactorily all types of alloys, both ferrous and non-ferrous.

In consequence of the additional research work that has been carried out and is still being carried out, welding experts and plant manufacturers are planning a vast extension of fabrication after the war. In order that a reasonable indication may be gathered of what is possible, it may be as well to outline one or two actual welded jobs that have been executed in Great Britain.

One manufacturer just before the war built a 2,300-gallon double compartment stainless steel milk tanker, mounted on a motor chassis.

This tanker met all hygienic needs, and constituted the perfect bulk milk transport unit.

Another welded job was a 20-gallon stainless steel still for distilling essential oils. This still was steam-jacketed and built entirely of stainless steel.

In brewing beer, fermenting barrels are also being made of stainless alloys by electric arc welding, and the interior finish of these must likewise be of high quality workmanship. Over a hundred tanks with capacities from 1,000 to 50 gallons that made up a single order have been placed by a British chemical manufacturer. Each of these was built up by electric welding.

Plans are already in existence for a wide development of fabrication in the chemical industry. For example, spiral coolers are already being electrically fabricated. Storage tanks of heat-resisting steel are being welded with British electrodes giving a weld deposit of similar composition to that of the parent metal. A fine finish is essential in most work fabricated for the chemical industry.

Again, steel parts for the electrical and allied industries that were formerly made as steel castings are now being welded electrically at a much lower cost without any decline in efficiency, and there is every reason to believe that this tendency will increase after the war. Much research work is being done on the development of special welding electrodes to meet the requirements anticipated in the future. Many new metals and alloys are being and have been produced for specific functions.

Countless experiments are at present in progress in Great Britain, and as soon as the end of the war allows, an intensive drive in the direction of better and more extensive fabrication of plant, will certainly begin.

A sailor called unexpectedly on his fiancee. He found her all dressed up and ready to go to a dance.

"That's the spirit," he told her. "No need to sit about and be gloomy."

Just then the telephone bell rang, and the sailor answered it.

"What?" he said. "Oh, yes—judging from the number of U-boats we've sunk, I should certainly think so." And he hung up the receiver.

"Who was that?" asked the girl, somewhat apprehensively.

"Oh," said the sailor, "just a fellow who wanted to know if the coast is clear!"

In heavy daylight attacks on western Europe, March 5–6, the U.S.A.A.F. struck at Berlin and also dipped down into southern France, to bomb Cognac and Bergerac. The Calais area, too, came in for heavy pounding. The daylight raid on Berlin marked the second time the Berliners have looked up and seen United States bombers flying in formation overhead—a sight their Herr Goering assured them on many occasions they would never, never see.

WAY STATIONS ON SEA ROAD TO TOKYO

New York Times Correspondent Robert Trumbull writes:—

THE new bases captured from the Japanese in the Marshalls are now being welded into our trans-Pacific supply line which must support any further operations westward. The violent phase of the war passed over Kwajalein and Eniwetok like a tropical squall and now we are putting these atolls for uses for which nature so well designed them.

"Army engineers and Navy construction battalions work day and night on the major islands of the two atolls, converting them into forward bases for the next push in the Central Pacific. Each atoll either has or will have bomber and fighter strips, supply dumps and such facilities as the limited land areas will support for handling ships, using the virtually unlimited anchorages provided by the lagoons.

"Possession of these bases has raised our horizon. Two targets in the Carolines are now close enough to Eniwetok to be bombed from there with land-based fighter cover: Ponape, 362 miles southwest of Eniwetok, and Kusaie, 363 miles south and slightly east of Eniwetok. Kusaie, also, is in range of Kwajalein Island.

"Thus, our conquests in the Marshalls weren't an end in themselves but merely advanced our forward perimeter westward. As the actual frontier of the war moves farther west, the importance of the Marshalls will lie in their convenience as fuel and supply centres for the fleet. These islands with their protected lagoon anchorages can be either a stop-over or supply and relay point on the long road to and from the Pacific coast of the United States, where the men and their tools for a large-scale operation must originally embark . . .

"Kwajalein may now, in fact, be ranked among the important Allied seaports in the Pacific and will continue to hold such a position as long as we must maintain the Central Pacific route to the Japanese empire."

Four men who were to be sent abroad at short notice took French leave and left the camp for a few hours to say goodbye to their families.

At the London terminus they were caught by a ticket collector who wanted to see the railway vouchers which they did not possess.

He was about to call the military police when a burly sergeant of another regiment asked what the trouble was, and said he would put the men under arrest.

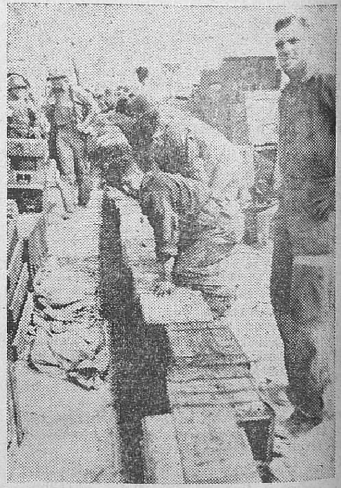
Ordering them to fall in, he marched them through the barrier. Once out of sight of the ticket collector he dismissed them and told them to buzz off.

They started to thank him, but he cut them short.

"That's all right, chums. It was the only way I could get past the barrier myself. I hadn't a rail voucher either."

UNITED STATES MARINES ADVANCE THROUGH JAPANESE GUNFIRE—Landing craft carrying United States Marines forge steadily ahead for the amphibious assault on Bougainville Island in the Northern Solomons while Japanese gunfire splashes the water nearby. Once ashore, the marines overran fortified enemy positions and drove the Japanese into the jungles of their last important base in the South Pacific Island group. Later, United States Army units joined the marines for an overland push against the Japanese.

UNITED STATES FORCES CAPTURE GILBERT ISLANDS.—United States marines with fixed bayonets for close-range fighting take cover behind an embankment during the fighting on Tarawa atoll, in the Gilbert Islands, which led to the capture of the strategic Japanese air base. The South Pacific Gilberts were taken by combined United States forces.



UNITED STATES FORCES DRIVE JAPANESE FROM GILBERT ISLANDS IN PACIFIC.—United States Marines who took part in the capture of Tarawa, strategic Japanese air base in the Gilbert Islands, move supplies across the sandy beach on a roller carrier. United States forces also drove the Japanese from the adjacent Gilbert Islands of Makin and Abemama.

NEW PHASE IN OFFENSIVE AGAINST JAPAN

THE attack on Truk, the enemy's principal naval base in the Central Pacific, begins a new stage in the offensive against Japan, writes *The Times*.

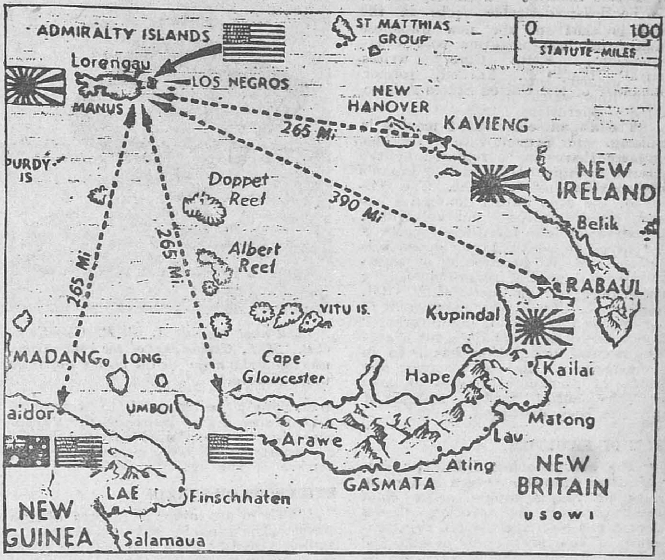
The participation of large numbers of United States warships and aircraft in this important operation impose a wireless silence during its earlier stages; some days may well pass before detailed information concerning its scope and effect is made public. The conformation of the principal islands within the Truk atolls forbids any expectation that they will yield to attack as rapidly as the strongholds captured in the Gilbert and Marshall groups. Of the islands which command the ordinary anchorage of Truk and its approaches, Doublon, Moen and Fefan are not low coral platforms but basalt mountain tops rising over 1,100 feet above the sea level; and the fourth, Uman, is a little lower. Their reduction or neutralization is, therefore, likely to require a longer and greater effort.

Nevertheless, the speed with which the American High Command have followed up their earlier successes in spite of the immense length of their lines of communication and their refusal to be beguiled into a rigid strategy of "island hopping" are encouraging features in their newest and boldest offensive.

CAMPAIGN IN SOLOMONS

Meanwhile the long campaign in the Solomon islands has passed its culminating point. This was reached recently when American and New Zealand troops seized Green Islands which lie between the Buka island and the northern extremity of the Bougainville island and New Britain. This move cut off the Japanese garrisons dispersed through Bougainville, Choiseul, Buka and the Shortland islands from any probable relief, for their nearest friendly base Rabaul in New Britain is under constant air attack and ships which use its harbour are in perpetual peril. It is doubtful whether the force in Bougainville can subsist on its small resources. Choiseul and the smaller islands are poor and their marooned garrisons ill-fed, blockaded and diseased and appear to be in a hopeless position. The dropping of occasional supplies from the air, even if this is still possible, will not meet their needs. Unescorted barge traffic is still possible, though perilous along the coast of New Guinea or across the Straits which can be crossed in the few hours of darkness. Attempted over wide stretches of the sea, without adequate air and naval protection, it invites destruction; and it is hard to see where the enemy will find escorts now that the far more important strongholds of Rabaul and Truk itself are in danger.

The latest phase of the campaign in the Solomons permits further deductions. In the first place American troops, established in their beachheads on the Bougainville island, would seem to have no further reason to advance into its mountainous interior. They can safely leave the enemy to the care of General Famine and General Fever, and these two Commanders will operate even more effectively in the smaller islands. If these conclusions are justified, the Northern Solomons can now be bypassed. Nor are they an exceptional case.



On the last day of February, General MacArthur sent his landing troops ashore to seize Los Negros Island, a key position in the Admiralty Islands. T is latest Allied surprise move tightens the sea blockade of all isolated Jap garrisons in the Bismarck Archipelago, and also gives the Allies another bomber base. Map shows location of Los Negros and the air distances to other important Allied and Jap positions in the area.

"WE CAN DO NO OTHER"

(*By* R.G.)

Strong youth about to die deems life more sweet
Than do the unthreatened many or the worn
And weary: but to die
Our merriest have chosen, lest unborn
And unbegotten generations cry

"You in whose will it lay to fight or treat
With evil undisguised, why laid you down
Your spear and armour while
You still could stride the windy skies or drown
In the undefeated ditch around our isle?"

We fight to win: but even were defeat
More sure than night's fall and returning dawn
We could not choose but fight,
Whose ancestors took freedom out of pawn
And poured out lives to ransom law and right.

A people in whose heart Alfred and Arthur meet
Could not the other cheek to tyrants turn.
A people brave and wise,
Whom Pitt and Lincoln taught, their peace must earn
By daring all disaster with calm eyes.

JAPAN'S SHIPPING MINISTER HAS UNENVIABLE JOB

AT this moment in history one of the least desirable jobs in the world is that of the new Japanese Minister of Transportation and Communications. Keita Goro," writes Admiral Harry E. Yarnell, former Commander of the United States Asiatic Fleet.

"The Japanese merchant marine is shrinking. Our present rate of sinkings is greater than can be replaced by the Japanese shipyards and Japan's hard-pressed industrial plant. The railroads of the area Japan dominates are sparse, often primitive and vulnerable. The extent of the territory—largely a water area—on which Japan depends is enormous and the functioning of transport where industrial plants lie so far from sources of raw material is vital. Furthermore, Japan has attempted to super-impose an artificial, Japan-centered and dominated economy on a huge area whose natural orientation has been in other directions. She had to create new channels of communications in an area where the entire former system of supply has been disrupted.

GORO'S DIFFICULTIES

"The accumulating difficulties facing Minister Goro can be seen in a great variety of recent events. The chief attempt to meet the problem of sea transport has been the wooden ship programme. These are vessels of 100, 150 and 200 tons. It is hoped they can be produced in great numbers in local shipyards without dependence on the inadequate supplies of iron at Japan's disposal. This improvisation is creating a store of new troubles. Firstly, there has been a need to train shipwrights in Borneo, Celebes and Sumatra and divert sorely needed skilled manpower to the establishment of these training schools.

"Manning these ships, once they are constructed, is another problem. Ten ships of 100 tons each require several times the navigational personnel of one ship of 1,000 tons. The inhabitants of the South Seas are good seamen, accustomed to daring voyages among their own waters. But it is no small problem to float a new merchant marine of small ships that must ply in unaccustomed channels.

"It isn't easy to get local crews to sail these small craft into strange waters, laden with products of their own country to supply the invaders' demands, when they know they are not likely to bring home any cargo in repayment and how vulnerable these wooden ships are to ·50 calibre slugs from strafing Allied planes, which can sink such frail craft without a bomb or torpedo.

"These craft increase another of Japan's transport problems. Since their range is limited, the amount of transhipment necessary is greatly increased. They can only go to a limited number of railheads—where, as they converge, they present easy, numerous targets to Allied plane and submarine patrols.

"A further complication lies in the need to create local shipyards close to timber sources. Although rafts are increasingly being used to transport timber, such a good source as the Philippines has been exploited only for domestic construction because transport for lumber is not available.

Lieutenant-General A. F. P. Christison, C.B., M.C., Commander of the 14th Army, who inflicted a major defeat on the Japanese in the Arakan.

EVIDENCES OF STRAIN

"There are other evidences of the strain. The Japanese have seized Chinese sailing vessels. They are making plans to improve the Grand Canal, easing the burden on interior transport in China. A captured Japanese told authorities in General Stilwell's command, that 14th U.S.A.A.F. atatcks had compelled the use of devious routes on the Japan-Formosa run and cargo ships travel increasingly by night, hugging the coast, increasing the length of the haul and decreasing the effective tonnage.

"The combination of natural, inherent difficulties and the hazards of warfare make the life of the Japanese Minister of Transport and Communications not very pleasant. The Tokyo radio said recently: 'Huge enemy task forces ply between our supply bases and the front lines. The enemy has made the passage of larger transports infinitely difficult and so, a heavy responsibility for safe transport of foods and supplies has fallen on the crews of these wooden ships . . . Their worst enemies are dengue fever and Boeing planes.'

"It would be more accurate to say their worst enemies are not the immense natural obstacles or our weapons, but the military leaders whose mistakes they are paying for."

A chimney-sweep got rude in a restaurant and two Royal Air Force pilots carried him out. Headline: "R.A.F. carry out offensive sweep."

Hitler was called out to see the fires in Berlin. Headline: "Hitler goes to Blazes."

A woman sued her doctor for operating on her husband without her consent. Headline: "Women sues Doctor for Opening her Mail."

—*From a B.B.C. feature.*

"SCARLET PIMPERNEL" OF BALKANS

By MORLEY RICHARDS

THE disclosure of another British "Scarlet Pimpernel" operating with the Balkan guerillas was made in Cairo with the news that Brigadier Edmund Frank Davies, M.C., is seriously wounded and prisoner in German hands. He was head of the Allied military mission to Albanian Partisans.

Treachery brought about Davies's capture. Early last month, he and his few Allied Staff Officers and a party of guerillas were attacked by the Germans north-west of Tirana, the Albanian capital. Heavily out-numbered, the party withdrew to a new hiding place. Some days later it was approached by seemingly friendly Albanians. It was caught off its guard. The Albanians were Quislings. There was a hand-to-hand fight in which several Albanians in Brigadier Davies's party were killed. Their leader was severely wounded.

In German custody, Davies was taken to hospital in Tirana and the latest news of him is that he is still in a serious condition. So ends for the time being a story which, when it can be fully told, will rank high in the records of courage.

CHOSE HIS GUERILLA JOB HIMSELF

Davies is 43 years old and is a regular soldier of the Royal Ulster Rifles. Tough, quiet spoken, good organizer and a first-class leader of men, he chose his guerilla job himself. British Army authorities in the Middle East set to work immediately after the Germans occupied the Balkans in 1941 to contact the underground movement in Yugoslavia, Greece and Albania. A call was made for volunteers to be smuggled into the country to help organize and find ways of getting aid to the Loyalists. Davies was one of the volunteers.

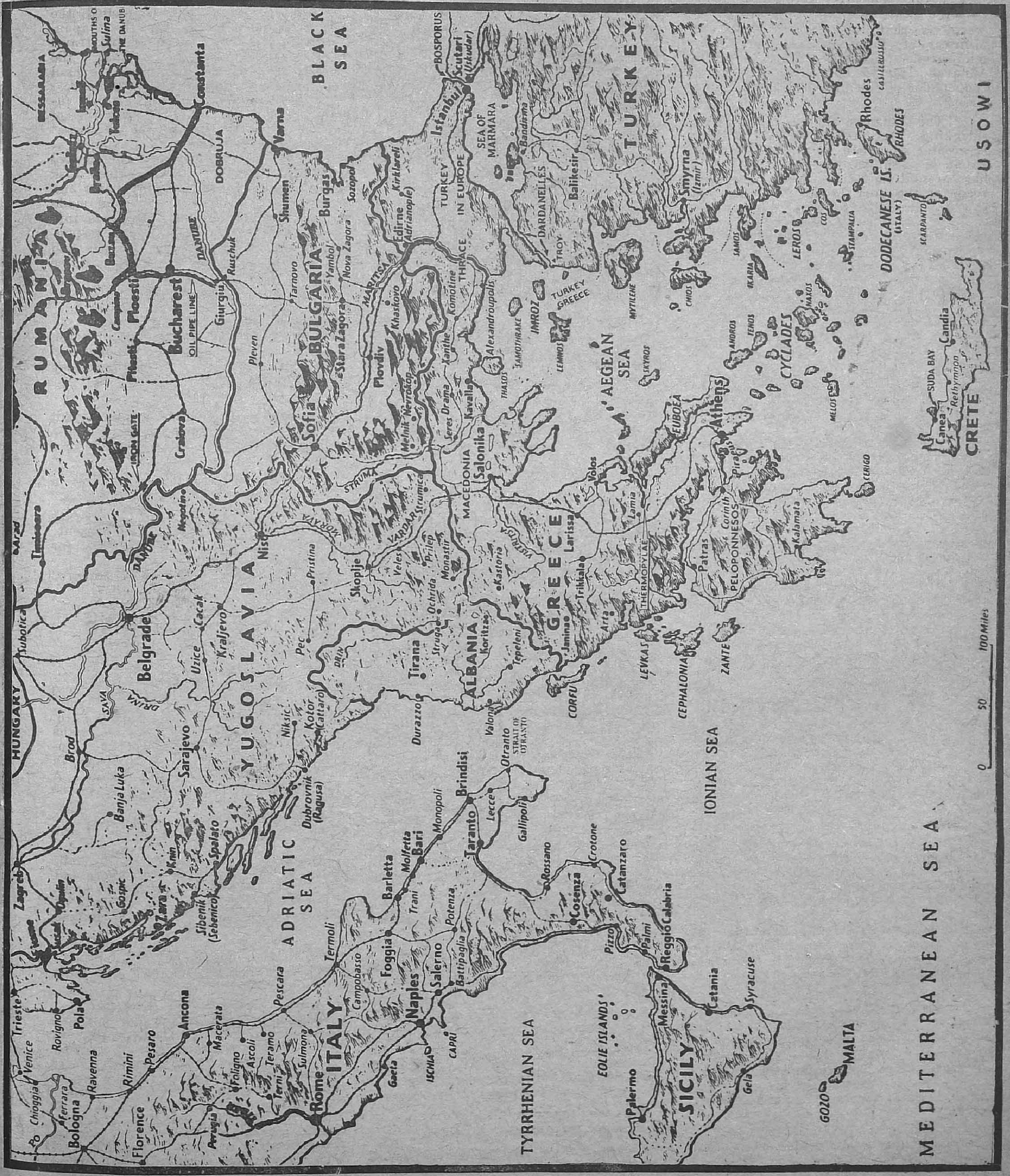
He knew the Middle East well, having served for several years there and had some knowledge of the Balkans. In a painstaking way, characteristic of him, he set to work to learn the Balkan languages and studied the special problems of Partisan resistance to the enemy. How he reached Yugoslavia into which he was first smuggled must remain a military secret.

ATTACHED TO MILITARY MISSION

He was attached to the military mission in that country and helped to train bands of local men in modern warfare. Resistance in Albania at first was spasmodic. It grew as enemy problems increased and Greeks and Yugoslavs became more and more successful.

Finally, it was decided that Davies should be transferred to Albania with a small mission to help organize the work there. He was brilliantly successful against heavy odds and in the face of innumerable risks.

MAP OF THE BALKAN PENINSULA



AIRMEN'S HOBBY FILLS UNIT LARDER

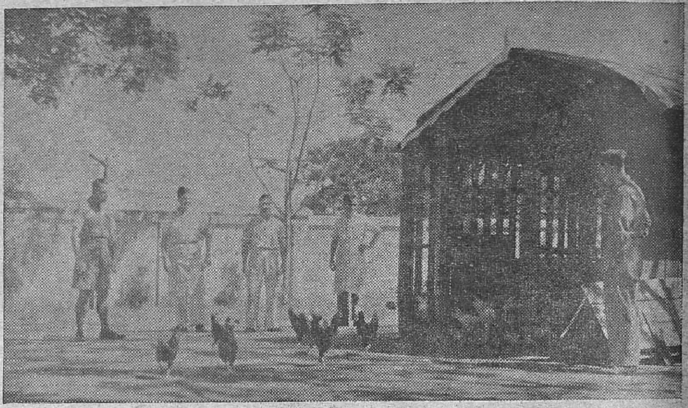
THE versatility of Royal Air Force airmen is not to be denied. This is well borne out by a farm which started as the hobby of two in Southern India, L. A. C. Thomas from Yorkshire, England, and L. A. C. Morford of Derbyshire, England.

From small beginnings with ration chickens, their hobby has developed into a part-time job for the Sergeant in charge of Unit messing.

First hatchings were from new laid eggs. Now there is a family of "White Leghorns," "Rhode Island Reds," and some brand of (we think) "Plymouth Rock," all forming a happy Royal Air Force unit in their roomy coop converted from a bicycle shed.

Pigs are a useful section of the farm. The first was purchased, but stock has since been increased by exchanging "swill" from the messes for unkilled porker from a local slaughter house. On swill these pigs are fed and fattened. When they weigh 150 lb. they are ready to fulfil their culinary destiny, providing ham and bacon and pork for the various Royal Air Force messes in the unit.

An important member of the farmyard is Lucy the goat. Lucy is fond of a "smoke" and, being the mascot is fed with Victory cigarettes quite frequently. In fact, the Sergeant says they are good for her.



"*H—Flight*" *in full force!* Left to right: *Sergeant Davidson from Derbyshire, L. A. C. Mooney from Blanefield, Sterlingshire, L. A. C. Variet of Dunstable, L. A. C. Whiteley of Halifax. The Orderly Corporal watches the drill display of the hens.*

Pet at the airmen's farm is Lucy the goat. Lucy's epicurean taste demands "V" for Victory cigarettes. The Sergeant, who comes from Derbyshire, gives her some of his.

She's a good hen, but don't tell me she laid all those. L. A. C. Morford, from Derby, holding the hen and L. A. C. Thomas of Hull, discuss the merits of a contributor to the breakfast menu. It was these two airmen who started the farm as a hobby.

The night the U. S. marines landed in the Solomons, a marine sergeant in a San Francisco cafe was praising his corps to the skies. An army captain finally interrupted.

"Don't forget," he said, "that when a marine goes into battle there are ten soldiers on one side of him and ten sailors on the other."

The marine raised himself to his full six feet one and came to attention.

"Sir," he retorted, "that's the proper proportion."

A young recruit stood on guard with fixed bayonet when a shadowy figure appeared.

"Who goes there?" he challenged.

"Ribbentrop," was the reply.

The sentry threw down his rifle with a cry of delighted surprise:—

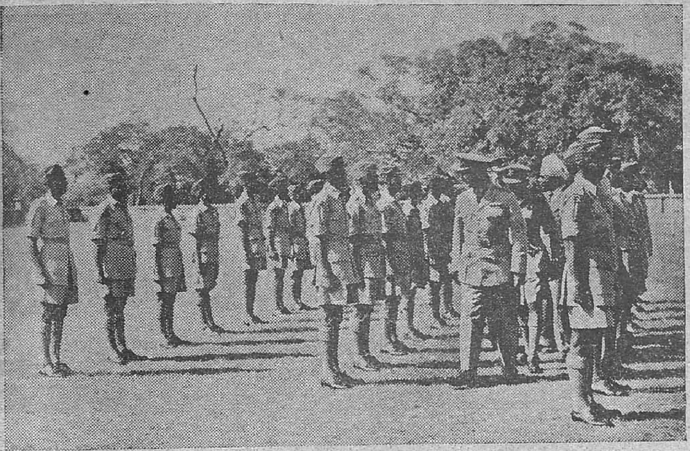
"Why, you're the fellow they're all looking for! Wait a minute and I'll tell the sergeant."

West African troops from Lagos, French Togaland and the Gold Coast are building a bridge on one of the roads into Burma.

The span of the bridge measures 40 feet. The men are working on the foundations under an English corporal, who was a plumber in civilian life.

"It is big job but they are a tough and cheerful crowd," said the corporal. He had helped to raise the unit in West Africa and is now serving with them in Burma. "Their only grouse is the absence of yams and palm-oil from the Indian menu."

INDIAN AIR TRAINING CORPS



I.A.T.C. MADRAS 'VARSITY SECOND PASSING OUT PARADE.—Group Captain A. D. Foster inspecting the cadets.

Another view of the march-past.

ON Friday, the 10th March 1944, afternoon, in the Presidency College grounds was witnessed a quiet but nenetheless impressive passingout parade by a batch of 24 University students who had just completed a strenuous course of three months' training. The salute was taken by Group Captain A. D. Foster who was highly impressed by the smart turn-out of the cadets.

Among those present were Dr. A. Lakshmanaswami Mudaliyar, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Madras, Squadron Leader Whitehead and Ft./Lt. Mehta and Mr. W. M. Maclean, Registrar of the University of Madras.

Certificates of proficiency were awarded to the cadets and a silver cup for the best cadet of the course was presented to Rozario.

Addressing the cadets, Squadron Leader Whitehead congratulated them on crossing what he described as the "first milestone" in the life of an air man and wished them well in their future careers.

In addition to their normal attendance at college, these cadets had about 190 hours of instructions at the hands of skilled instructors, civilian and air force, and the success of the course has been not a little due to Ft./Lt. Sastry, the Officer-in-Charge.

The Indian Air Training Corps, which is now functioning at six Indian Universities, was inaugurated in Madras last August by the then Deputy Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief.

The Corps is primarily meant for the recruitment of officers to the General Duties (Air Crew) Branch of the Indian Air Force. It provides pre-service training in air force subjects for prospective entrants to the Indian Air Force.

The successful candidates who are recommended by the University authorities will go straight to the Officers Selection Board for the Indian Air Force.

Two American soldiers were watching a show in a small town. Attracted by a red-haired girl in the chorus, one said: "Gee, oh boy! I'd give ten good English shillings for a lock of that girl's hair!"

"Give me your money," whispered his companion. With the money in his hand he left the seat, making his way to the stage door.

Returning some minutes later, he thrust something into his friend's hand and said: "You got a bargain, Johnny, she let me have the whole wig for ten shillings!"

A commando on leave had spent a long evening with friends at the village inn. They showed him a quick way home across the fields, forgetting that the local bull was loose.

The bull attacked, not recognising the commando's beret. The unfortunate animal was gripped by the horns and lugged about the field until it managed to break free and bolt.

"Pity I had those last two drinks," said the soldier. "I ought to have got that chap off his bike."

The following is taken from the *News Chronicle*:—

Wire is one of the things needed by farmers; that is scarce in wartime. It can be obtained only by a permit. A Berkshire farmer who became a little impatient when his permit did not arrive composed the following "Field post card," and sent it to the county war committee, with the request that they should strike out what did not apply and return it to him:—

To hell with you and your wire.
There is no wire.
What is wire?
Don't you know we're at war?
You can have a permit
(next month)
(next year)
(in 1945).
Herewith permit.

ALLIED AIR POWER IN ITALY

WE have to thank the activities of the air forces for the fact that the Germans have not been able to thrust with the same vigour from Cisterna as they did at Carroceto, cables *The Times* Fifth Army correspondent.

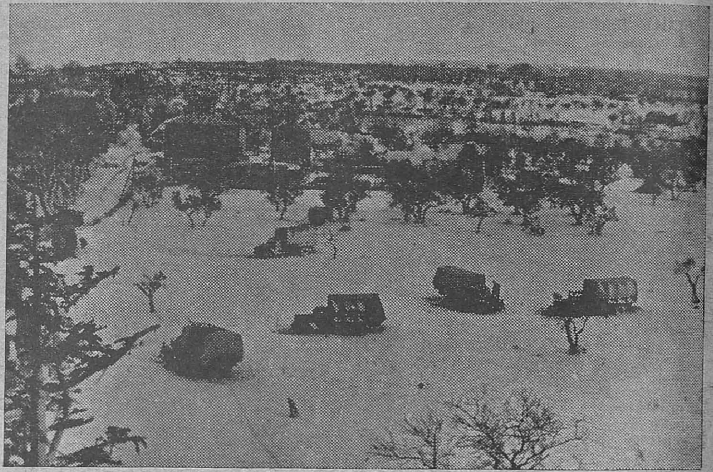
There is no doubt that the heavy bombing of railway communications north of Rome has interfered with the arrival of essential enemy supplies, probably also of a part of the intended reinforcements themselves. Thus though Kesselring has at his disposal bits of a number of divisions and a variety of different units, he has not been able to throw a force of proportionate weight into the attack. This is probably because the units are still short of equipment and guns and have not adequate reserves of ammunition.

He has indeed produced a fairly heavy artillery concentration which has enabled him to maintain harassing shell fire on the beachhead area, but it has not helped him to broaden his attack on the ground. The smashing of marshalling yards and junctions at such places as Pisa and Prato too had its effect nearer home and medium and light bombers have done invaluable work in destroying dumps, attacking columns on the march and in making assembly areas unusable for troops brought forward to attack.

Looking back over last few weeks of the Allied offensive, we may admit that the enemy has been able to stave off the threat to his right flank. On the other hand we made a serious penetration of his defences at several points. The threat to his flank still remains. The enemy has been forced to draw heavily on his central reserves. He has now got 17 divisions south of Rome and probably cannot obtain more reinforcement without drawing them from areas like France and the Balkans which are already threatened.

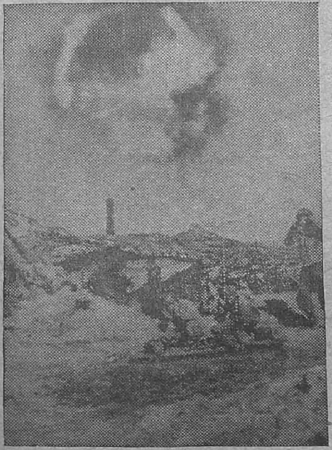
There is evidence that he suffered very heavy losses in the recent fighting and that most of his units are much under strength. He is being hampered now by the difficulties of supply in a way he has not experienced before. Allied aerial superiority is incontestable and this asset should weigh more and more heavily as the weather improves.

The Italian campaign has been a hard slogging match since the beginning and such it is likely to remain until the enemy cracks.



Snow on the Italian Front.

The snow plough clears the road.



A 155-m.m. " Long Tom " firing in the Nettuno area on the Italian front. Note the flatness of the terrain compared to that of the Monte Cassino area.

THE MURDER FACTORY

By MAJOR W. V. KIRSANOV

THE Dachau Concentration Camp is some eighteen kilometres from Munich. The mass murder and the frightful methods of tormenting prisoners therein practised were described to me by many German prisoners. A fuller picture of this murder factory was presented to me some days ago by the war prisoner Christian Weber, Second Company, Forty-second Infantry Regiment, Forty-sixth German Infantry Division. He reached the Eastern Front as late as July 1943, when he was drafted during the total mobilization. Because of his advanced age (the prisoner is fifty-one years old) and the dangerous ailment of stomach, Christian Weber was not troubled for a long time. Before he was drafted he worked as a cabinet maker at the "Gustav Adolph Heier" shops at the outskirts of Dachau and in the immediate vicinity of the concentration camp. He had seen a lot with his own eyes and had heard much more from acquaintances among the SS guards who spoke freely about their methods of tormenting the prisoners. The camp extends over several square kilometres surrounded by dense banks entanglements threaded with high tension wires. Fringing the barbed wire about the camp there is a deep ditch. All the approaches are guarded by SS men armed with rifles and tommyguns ready to fire without warning at any prisoner attempting to approach the barrier from within. The prisoners live in barracks unheated in winter. Crowded together, they sleep on bare boards, benches and streets. The commandant of the camp is the SS man Weiss known for his brutality, as are his immediate assistants, the SS men Tsiel Hoffman and Niederman who, in emulation of their boss, subject the prisoners to such ghastly tortures that the regulation of punishment of twenty-five blows of stick seems a mere bagatelle by comparison.

To stiffen their regimes the SS men claim to have improved upon the latter form of punishment by meting out as many as a hundred instead of twenty-five blows. How is such a punishment administered? Stripped naked, the victim is placed face down on a table. Two hangmen take their places on each side and deliver their blows in unison with those of the chief overseer. Thus, the victim receives twenty-five blows from rubber clubs. Such a punishment is generally administered in open before the eyes of all. Many victims die or go mad after such beatings. If a prisoner is found untractable during the cross-examination, he is suspended from a wall or ceiling and his hands and feet are tied. For infringing against the rules or regulations, the prisoners are confined in underground lockups. Dogs are set upon the more unfortunate offenders. Very often are prisoners used for various experiments which generally result in death. Thus, in April and May 1943, experiments made with anti-malaria serums caused the death of several hundred of prisoners. In June 1943, by the command of the Ministry of Aviation certain experiments were made upon prisoners to determine the maximum endurance of human lungs during parachute jumps. The victims' lungs were filled with air by a special pump. Then they were hurled into a pool. Such experiments proved fatal in nearly all cases.

Corporal Christian Weber testified to the following which has been included in the special affidavit concerning the execution of war prisoners at the concentration camp:—

> When a group of Russians—officers among them—were brought to the camp the prisoners had been so weakened by hunger that they could scarcely walk. In a few days they were loaded on trucks and driven to the shooting range which was some two kilometres from the camp. On the shooting range SS men under the supervision of the camp commandant Weiss and his assistant Hoffman tested some rifles newly received. The prisoners were used as targets. This target practice continued for two long summer days. Then the bodies of the victims were loaded on to trucks and removed to the camp of crematorium. The ghastly affair culminated with the burning alive of five Jewish war prisoners who were hurled into the furnace by the order of Weiss. Christian Weber heard about five who were burnt alive from SS man Helich who was present, but the mass murder of war prisoners on the shooting range was something which he saw with his own eyes.

Confined in the camp with war prisoners there are the so-called emigre Frenchmen, Poles, Russians, Greeks and other people who refused to be slaves to Germans. All wear special outfits striped with white and blue. There is a triangle on the chest of each. The colour of the triangle determines the prisoners' status: red for prisoners of war, blue for Belgian emigres (runaways) and yellow for Jews. In addition, the nationality of each is specified by a letter in the centre of the triangle —the letter R for Russians and Ukrainians, P for Poles, etc. The Dachau Concentration Camp, with its varied assortment of torture and mass murder, is an efficient murder factory organized with the characteristic German method.

THE DEAD END

"That reminds me of a Squadron Leader who came home—and shot himself! It happened this way. He was just back after four years away from home and went into a tobacconist, plonked sixpence down on the counter, and said, 'Packet of cigarettes, please!' 'Another eightpence' Sir,' said the tobacconist. 'Cheapest are one and two for ten now.' 'O.K.' said the Squadron Leader, 'here's your eightpence. And give me a box of strikes too,' and put down another penny. 'Penny ha'penny a box of matches, Sir,' said the tobacconist. By this time he was a bit fed up, so he went across the road and into a pub. This time he thought I won't be caught, so he says, 'Half a pint of mild and bitter, please' and plonks down a pound note. Well, half of mild and bitter costing sevenpence, the barman says to him, 'Have you got a penny, please, Sir?' Well, that was the end, he went out and shot himself."—

(Squadron Leader D. J. Stewart in "Back Home" in the B.B.C. series "Calling Southern Rhodesia.")

THIS EVIL THING

(*By* A. E.)

What is this evil thing
That twists men's minds,
And tempts them with some gilded trash
Beyond a chimera of dreams?
That barbs their tongues with venomed spikes
To hide in subtle phrase
Ten thousand inconsistencies
And addle earnest honesty
Who strives to understand?
What binds good words in treacherous shape
To breed a million fancied ills and wrongs
And saddles with the blame
All those who work towards better things?
What demons alchemy compounds
Emotions good and bad
And pens them with the figment of a dam
Then let's them rush
To drown man's sense
And make him hate his brother man?

SOLDIERS AND CITIZENS

[The following is the concluding portion of the article entitled "Soldiers and Citizens" published on page 18 of last issue of the *Madras War Review*. (It is regretted that by oversight the line "To be continued" was omitted at the end of the page in the last issue).]

THERE is no fear that the Indian soldier will be without a trade at the end of the war. He will be able to stand on his own feet. For the purely material point of view, he will be a citizen contributing more to the common pool than he takes out of it. But more he will be a thinking creature. For the Army takes the best view of the material at its disposal. These men who are efficient fitters, artificers, cooks, carpenters, cobblers, gunners, sappers, electricians, are also citizens of India and the world in the cultural sense. How does the Army fit them to hold positions of value in the cultural world?

Welfare education appreciates the fact that the Indian soldier now serving in the army does not intend to continue serving in the army when the war is at an end. Few can resist the call of the land, least of all the sepoy to whom land means permanence and stability. "Current-Affairs" pamphlets written to keep the sepoy 'au courant' with the changing Indian village, generally publish articles dialogue—fashion on Savings, Rural Reconstruction, Village Hygiene, Improved Agricultural methods, Indian Industries, Civil Administration and Co-operation. The articles are written both in simple English and in Roman Urdu and are handled skilfully enough to intrigue those to whom land and village uplift are remote mysteries.

In close liaison with the Directorate of Amenities and Welfare, the Public relations Directorate of the Army puts out publications like "Fauji Akhbar" and "Jang-Ki-Khabren" and "War in Pictures". The main purpose of these is to the Indian soldiers informed of political happenings in various parts of the world. For those whose standard of general education fits them for it "Weekly Commentary" is as good a review of world political events as any in Indian and its forum is an excellent ventilating chamber for soldiers with strong opinions on controversial subjects. On the whole, the publications seek to ventilate grievances to express as many points of view as possible. They stimulate independent thought.

As a corollary to this informal political education units have Information Rooms equipped with up-to-date maps, with recent papers, with illustrated magazines, with technical photographs and photogravures with a daily news bulletin and with reference charts of various kinds. Here the men may browse at will in their spare time. Attached to the Information Room in a number of units is a reading and writing room and a dining room.

"MADRAS CALLING"

Political news of India and the world interest the simpler minded sepoy less than news of his own province and his own village. The realization that to a Madrassi, Madras and his own village are of much more intimate interest than India as a whole or the world as a whole has led to an exchange of news between soldiers of different provinces. "Madras Calling"—a news sheet of Madras and the south is directed to assuage the nostalgia of Madrassi soldiers posted away from their province, and "News from the North" fulfils the same function for Punjabis stationed somewhere in South India. These slender publications are intended to keep the sepoy in touch with his village and his province, to keep alive old memories, to give him news of his people, his cattle, his crops, they may be used as an informal agency of education, though their purpose is primarily one of entertainment and not of instruction.

So much for the tangible educational benefits of life in the Army.

The Indian soldier has become a tradesman. He has been educated basically. If he has availed himself of his opportunities, he is as well-informed as anybody else. But the incidental results of his life in a fighting army are of even more abiding value and may bear scrutiny.

His life in the Army has brought home to the Indian soldier as nothing in civilian life does to the same degree that he is a member of a body, that on him—on his health, his vitality, his efficiency, his discipline—depend the well being of the whole body. That is a sense of responsibility that he will not easily shake off in time of peace. He has learnt to be an active member of the community.

He has learnt, furthermore, that independence of thought in matters effecting him personally and in matters civic in which strength of individual opinion is of vital importance is quite compatible with strict subjection to discipline in all matters affecting the fighting army. Co-operation secures better results than isolated social action with independence but this co-operation is perfectly compatible of mind.

SOLDIER IS HIS OWN TEACHER

Travel and contact with a variety of people with a variety of convictions and manners rub off his angles, inculcate a wide tolerance and educate more liberally, perhaps because more intangibly, than the tutor and the schoolroom. In this respect the soldier is his own teacher. Provincial prejudice wears thin, Provincial loyalties remain strong. The soldier is young to the old familiar things but they no longer shut out the bigger world of India.

Above all the simple peasant has had the opportunity to grow character and personality, at absolutely no personal expense. Both some inadvertantly but generally at heavy cost in university fees and technical courses. They are achieved in the army at no material cost but with a wealth of experience, work conscientiously performed and directed to a single vital end, risks run in company with comrades and the advantage of seeing human strength and weakness at close quarters. Compact living and the constant reminder that death is around the corner are excellent correctives to our submissive acceptance of things as they are.

FOR YOUR RADIO DIARY

Every Friday at 8-30 p.m. on both the wavelengths from A.I.R., Madras, there will be a feature broadcast entitled "John Citizen in the Services".

GURKHAS SAVE TREASURE CHEST

Fighting their way out of a Jap ambush seven Gurkha riflemen, accompained by a five-year-old Bengali boy—a waif whom their unit had adopted-for seven days forced their way through tangled jungle on the eastern slopes of the Mayu Range to bring back to our lines the battalion treasure chest, containing several thousand rupees.

The Gurkhas, part of a guard left to look after a dump at Taung-Bazaar now in our hands again were attacked by a Jap riding party last week. Although the odds were against them they managed to kill five of the enemy in a running fight with grenades, rifles and light machine guns.

The guard was split. Contact with the non-commissioned officer was lost. But rifleman Balsha Gurung took charge of his small party of seven.

One by one, for seven days, the men took their turn of carrying the heavy treasure chest on their backs. Their young protege, whose name is Gopal, walked barefooted the whole way back, over 30 miles, through dense jungle. He was no passenger, however, for his knowledge of the local villages enabled the Gurkhas to rely on the country for food and water.

When I first saw them, writes an India Army Observer, I found the party still guarding the chest. They had arrived at a camp near Bawli-Bazaar and were planning to return to their unit with the money and with young Gopal whose mother is at present in Jap hands. His father was killed by the enemy.

BEHIND THE PICTURES

Producing the pictures of soldiers, sailors and air force men displayed throughout the length and breadth of India for the purpose of recruiting are a number of commercial artists, one of whom, 31-year-old K. B. Nathan of Trivandrum, worked for several years in Bombay.

Sitting in a studio of the Recruiting Directorate, studying action photos, he transfers to paper his artistic creations to draw the attention of the public to the needs of the various branches of the armed forces in the India Command.

WAR DIARY

BRITAIN AND GERMANY

7TH MAR.—Mr. A. V. Alexander, First Lord of the Admiralty, introduced the Navy budget and surveyed the war situation.

Mr. Churchill told the House of Commons that the coming discussions on Service pay would embrace all the three Services.

Mosquitoes attacked objectives in north-west Germany. Berlin was bombed.

8TH MAR.—American bombers attacked industrial targets in Berlin in daylight, 350,000 incendiary bombs and more than 10,000 high explosive bombs were dropped. Thousand bombers were over the city.

Mr. Oliver Littleton, Minister of Production, made a statement in the Parliament on Britain's output of war weapons.

An air raid warning was sounded in London area at night.

Mr. H. U. Willink, Minister of Health, outlined the British post-war policy.

9TH MAR.—There was slight German air activity over parts of southern England last night.

Berlin was bombed to-day heavily.

About 90,000 coal workers are in strike in Wales. The strike has spread to Scotland also.

Sir John Anderson, Chancellor of the Exchequer, announced that United Kingdom aid to United States under return Lease-Lend amounted up to December 31, 1943, to 339-million pounds.

"New secret weapons and devices," some of which have been used successfully by Allied bombers in the Battle of Berlin were mentioned by Captain Oliver Lyttleton, Minister of Production.

10TH MAR.—General Sir Bernard Montgomery said: "I do not suppose we can win this war unless everybody goes 100 per cent all out: as long as we do that then we will win the war without any question."

His Majesty the King inspected invasion troops.

Mosquitoes bombed objectives in western Germany.

President Roosevelt said that bombing would go ahead.

11TH MAR.—Allied planes attacked targets in western Germany.

12TH MAR.—Last night Mosquitoes attacked Hamburg and other objectives in western Germany.

A few German aircraft dropped bombs at two places in south-east England last night.

Admiral Doneitz, head of the German Navy, made a speech on the occasion of the "Fallen Heroes Day."

13TH MAR.—There was an air-raid alert in London area.

Objectives in western Germany were bombed.

14TH MAR.—Both the House of Lords and the House of Commons to-day unanimously adopted a motion inviting American Congress members to visit Britain.

Mr. Churchill told the Commons to-day that he thought it would not be wise for him to make a statement upon the coalmining position at present. Most of the workers have resumed work in Wales.

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE ATLANTIC

7TH MAR.—The State Department announced that Britain and the United States were undertaking a "preliminary and exploratory discussion on the petroleum question".

8TH MAR.—"The volume of reverse Lend-Lease aid furnished to United States by her Allies is increasing steadily" said Mr. L. Crowley, the Foreign Economic Administrator.

9TH MAR.—President Roosevelt announced new diplomatic appointments.

Colonel Frank Knox, United States Navy Secretary, said that under Lend-Lease 1,400 ships had been transferred to the Allies, mainly Britain.

The Chairman of the United States War Production Board, Mr. Donald Nelson, last night gave a warning that the United States was going to have even a harder time in keeping the economic balance during the remainder of this war than in the last two years.

10TH MAR.—A statement on U-boat warfare in the Atlantic in February was issued to-day.

The Allies have 'only dented the rim of Hitler's Fortress" and "touched the outskirts of Tojo's Empire" declared Lieutenant-General Somervell, Commanding-General of the United States Army Service Forces.

11TH MAR.—President Roosevelt presented the 14th Report on Lend-Lease operations to the United States Congress.

12TH MAR.—The Navy Department announced that the giant United States flying boat *Mars* landed at San Francisco carrying 800,000 letters from Pacific.

13TH MAR.—The War Man Power Commission has issued a statement on the United States coal position saying that stocks have become very low.

14TH MAR.—The Director of United States War Production Board, Mr. Charles E. Wilson, announced that aircraft production in the United States had reached the rate of 350 planes daily.

The United States submarine "Corvina" is declared lost.

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INDIA, BURMA AND CEYLON

7TH MAR.—In the Hintdaw area Allied troops attacked high ground S. on the Maungdaw-Buthidaung road on the night of March 6–7. Early on March 7, this high ground was in Allied hands. Moulmein and Bangkok were attacked on March 6–7. On the night of March 7–8, bombers attacked Anisakan airfield.

8TH MAR.—Mr. S. L. De Carteret, Deputy Minister of National Defence, Canada, is now in India on a brief visit.

Lieut.-General J. R. Swayne has been appointed Chief of Staff in India.

The United States Lend-Lease Administrator, Mr. Crowley, gave detailed figures on Lend-Lease aid to India furnished by United States up to January 1.

9TH MAR.—During March 8, there was very little activity west of Mayu range, says to-day's South-East Asia Command's communiqué.

10TH MAR.—His Highness the Maharajah of Kashmir and Sir Feroz Khan Noon are appointed to the War Cabinet.

During the past 24 hours there have been only minor actions in the south and centre of the 14th Army fronts, says to-day's South-East Asia Command communiqué. In the Arakan, activity has been mainly confined to patrols.

11TH MAR.—During the night of March 10–11, Allied bombers attacked Bassein, says to-day's South-East Asia Command's communiqué.

H.M.I.S. *Rampur* was launched to-day.

His Excellency Sir Claude Auchinleck, Commander-in-Chief of India, inspected army training centres at Dehra Dun.

President Roosevelt has referred to India's importance as a base and paid tributes to her soldiers, when he presented the Lend-Lease report to the United States Congress.

12TH MAR.—United States fighters in sweeps over Heho, Aungban and Meiktila airfields on 11th March destroyed nine Jap fighters, says to-day's communiqué.

13TH MAR.—The Allies have captured Buthidaung, reports to-day's South-East Asia Command communiqué.

A press communiqué issued to-day says that on March 12, a small number of enemy aircraft bombed Silchar area in Assam.

14TH MAR.—It is revealed that Lord Louis Mountbatten, Supreme Commander, South East Asia, recently visited the Ledo headquarters of his Deputy, General Stilwell and that they toured forward areas. It is also announced that the Allied forces have taken Razabil, the important Jap held junction in Burma.

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RUSSIA AND FINLAND

7TH MAR.—Fierce battles are raging before the two vital junctions on the Odessa-Sevow railway, Tarnapol and Proskurov. Russians have captured over 200 localities.

8TH MAR.—Soviet troops captured Chern-Ostrov. Russian formations broke through German lines south of Krivoirog.

It is said that Finland has delivered its reply to Russia regarding peace proposals.

9TH MAR.—A new offensive has been started in the third Ukrainian front by the Russians and the Soviet troops have captured Novy Bug, Kazanka, Staro Konstantinov and 200 more localities. Ulanov, Kryshavka, and 40 more localities were also occupied.

M. A. V. Lavrentiene has been appointed the first Foreign Minister of the Russian Republic (Russia proper) under the recent constitutional changes.

10TH MAR.—Russian forces captured Uman, Khristinovka, Talnoye, Buki, Mankovka, Babanka, Ekateripropolhe, Manastyris and 300 other localities. Over 20,000 Germans were killed around Uman.

11TH MAR.—Soviet troops captured Berislavl, Zlatapol, Krasilov, Ladyshenka and other places.

It is announced that 20 lakhs of Russians have been massacred by the Germans in the occupied territory since the war began.

12TH MAR.—The Russian army captured Zlatapol, Novo Mirgorod and Berislavl, Gayvoron, Shevchenkovo, Bolskava-Alexandrovka and other places.

13TH MAR.—The Russians have captured Kherson.

14TH MAR.—Soviet reinforcements have now crossed the Dnieper estuary to join in the battle beyond Kherson. The collapse of German positions of Nikolaev is immient.

ITALY, AFRICA AND THE MEDITERRANEAN

7TH MAR.—No major battles developed on the Italian fronts but minor engagements flared up at a number of points.

8TH MAR.—Patrols were active on all fronts. There were no changes in the front line.

Air Vice-Marshal John Henry D'Albiac has been appointed Deputy Commander, the Mediterranean Allied Tactical Air Force.

9TH MAR.—Two small attacks by the enemy against the Allied beach-head force positions were repelled. Allied patrols engaged the enemy on all the three fronts.

General Sir Harold Alexander, at the end of an inspection tour, told " Things are very much better in the beach-head."

Mr. Churchill made a statement in the Parliament about the future of the Italian fleet.

Sixty German aircraft attacked an Allied convoy off the North African coast.

10TH MAR.—Normal patrolling and artillery exchanges took place on the Fifth and Eighth Army fronts. American bombers attacked Rome.

11TH MAR.—Due to adverse weather conditions only patrolling and minor clashes took place on all fronts.

12TH MAR.—Patrols were active on all the three fronts.

13TH MAR.—Bad weather prevented offensive operations.

Russia has recognized Badoglio Government.

14TH MAR.—Trough weather improved snow and mud prevented major offensives. Patrols were active on all fronts.

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VICHY, FREE FRANCE AND OCCUPIED COUNTRIES

7TH MAR.—Allied bombers attacked Trappes and Toulon in France.

Heavy fighting takes place in three different sectors of the Balkan Front—Western Bosnia, Croatia and Herzegovina says Marshal Tito's communiqué.

8TH MAR.—Fierce mountain battles are being fought in Western Bosnia between the Germans and Yugoslav Patriots.

The substance of M. Stalin's reply to the latest Polish proposals, was conveyed to the Polish Government by the British Government. The Polish Government met to-day for a preliminary survey of the position.

9TH MAR.—Fierce fighting is going on in Western Bosnia.

10TH MAR.—Allied bombers attacked Marignane near Marseilles.

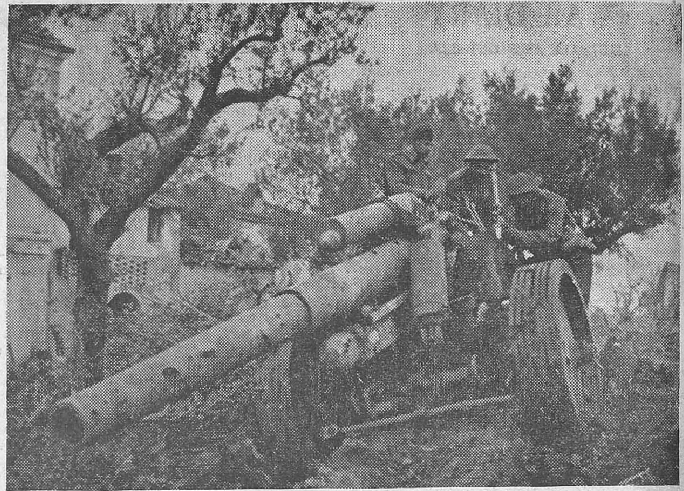
11TH MAR.—King Peter of Yugoslavia arrived in London with his Prime Minister Puritch and the Minister of the Interior M. Milichevitch.

Free Austrians in Britain have launched a liberation movement.

12TH MAR.—Pope has made an appeal to the belligerents to spare Rome.

Pas De Calais area in France was bombed by Allied aircraft.

14TH MAR.—Le Mans, the French motor manufacturing town, was heavily bombed.



INDIANS IN ACTION WITH EIGHTH ARMY IN ITALY—Indian troops have been in the thick of the battles on the eighth Army front. Picture shows: *Indian troops inspecting a German 15 Omm gun which had been put out of action during heavy fighting. The gun is near the building which was used by the Germans as their headquarters.*

THE NEUTRAL COUNTRIES

7TH MAR.—Mr. Eden told the House of Commons that he had no statement to make at present, on the withdrawal of the British Military Mission from Turkey.

9TH MAR.—The United States State Department announced that negotiations with Spain to halt wolfram shipments to Germany and curtail other German advantages in Spain are continuing.

10TH MAR.—The United States State Department's demand on the Eire to close the Axis legations in Dublin has been rejected by Mr. De Valera.

The Spanish Embassy in London has denied the report that Spain had given the Germans bases in Canary Islands.

11TH MAR.—Text of United State's note to Eire and De Valera's reply are published.

It is stated in Istanbul that the Turkish Ambassador in Britain has resigned.

12TH MAR.—All travel between Ireland and Britain has been suspended.

14TH MAR.—Mr. Churchill made a statement about Eire in the House of Commons.

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THE FAR EAST

7TH MAR.—Admiral Chester Nimitz, Commander-in-Chief of the United States Pacific Fleet, made a statement on the situation in the Pacific.

8TH MAR.—On the Admiralty Islands Allied forces continued their northward advance. Rabaul was bombed. Naval aircraft bombed Paramushiro, Japan's important naval and air base.

9TH MAR.—United States Navy Department announced that United States submarines have destroyed 16 more Japanese vessels in the Pacific and the Far East.

10TH MAR.—In the Admiralty Islands the Allies continued to expand their positions. Allied aircraft attacked Panapai, Boepop, Namatanai, Cape Lemeris, Rabaul and other places. Unopposed Allied occupation of Magine Islands on Feb. 27 was announced to-day.

The Australian Premier, John Cudtin, told the Parliament that he was going to Britain for a conference with Mr. Churchill.

11TH MAR.—American troops on New Britain captured the Talasea airfield. In the Admiralty group American forces continued to make progress on Los Negro Island. Allied bombers attacked Ponape and Kusaie.

12TH MAR.—The Tokyo radio said that the Japanese air-raid defence headquarters have passed regulations for speeding up air raid precautions.

Two Jap cargo ships in the Hollandic region in New Guinea were sunk. United States Pacific Fleet seized Wotho Atoll, a small group of islands.

14TH MAR.—Allied troops landed on Hawaei and Butyoluo islands in the Admiralty group.

PRINTED BY THE SUPERINTENDENT, GOVERNMENT PRESS, AND PUBLISHED BY THE DIRECTOR OF WAR PUBLICITY, "VICTORY HOUSE," MOUNT ROAD MADRAS.